

Claims

- [c1] 1. A method, comprising:
searching configuration data for an entry for a device with an unknown type; and
removing the entry for the device with the unknown type from the configuration data.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining a vendor of the device with the unknown type;
searching subkeys in the configuration data for all devices associated with the vendor; and
deleting keys associated with the devices associated with the vendor.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
modifying an initialization file to remove device information.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
deleting files identified in a file list.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the deleting element further comprises:
saving a backup copy of the files prior to deletion.
- [c6] 6. A method, comprising:
searching a registry for a USB (Universal Serial Bus) printer with an unknown description; and
removing an entry for the printer with the unknown description from the registry.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
determining a vendor of the printer;
searching subkeys in the registry for all printers associated with the vendor; and
deleting keys for all the printers associated with the vendor.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
clearing load, run, and device lines from an initialization file.
- [c9] 9. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
removing a devices section and a printerports sections from an initialization file.
- [c10] 10. A signal-bearing medium comprising instructions, wherein the instructions

when executed comprise:

deleting entries in a configuration file for all devices with an unknown description;

scanning subkeys in the configuration file for a device entry associated with a selected vendor; and

removing keys from the configuration file, wherein the keys are associated with the device entry.

- [c11] 11. The signal-bearing medium of claim 10, wherein the instructions further comprise:
removing references associated with the device from an initialization file.
- [c12] 12. The signal-bearing medium of claim 10, wherein the instructions further comprise:
deleting files identified in a file list.
- [c13] 13. A computer, comprising:
a processor; and
storage comprising instructions executable on the processor, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:
detecting devices attached to the computer,
identifying the attached devices as unknown when drivers for the attached devices are not present,
installing device drivers, and
deleting entries in a configuration file for all devices with an unknown description.
- [c14] 14. The computer of claim 13, wherein the instructions further comprise:
scanning subkeys in the configuration file for a device entry associated with a selected vendor.
- [c15] 15. The computer of claim 14, wherein the instructions further comprise:
removing keys from the configuration file, wherein the keys are associated with the device entry.
- [c16] 16. The computer of claim 13, wherein the instructions further comprise:
modifying an initialization file to remove information associated with the device.
- [c17] 17. An apparatus, comprising:

means for removing a registry key associated with a predetermined device of a computer system; and
means for modifying a configuration file to indicate removal of the predetermined device from the computer system,
wherein the predetermined device is removed from the computer system so as to not interfere with a subsequent device installation.

[c18] 18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said removing means includes means for removing registry keys according to a vendor of the predetermined device.

[c19] 19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said removing means removing at least one registry key selected from a list of registry keys consisting of:
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\enum\device bus\
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device
function\Environments\Windows 4.0\Drivers
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\currentcontrolset\control\device
function\monitors
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\Ports
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\device
type
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Config\0001\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device
function\device type
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\Class,
where device bus indicates a type of bus the predetermined device uses to couple to the computer system, device function indicates a function the predetermined devices provides, and device type indicates a group classification of the predetermined device.

[c20] 20. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said modifying means modifying the configuration file, wherein the configuration file is selected from a list consisting of: win.ini, windows.inf, windows\system, and windows\system32.

[c21] 21. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said removing means removing at least one registry key, wherein the at least one register key is selected from a list of registry keys consisting of:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\enum\device bus\
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device
function\Environments\Windows 4.0\Drivers
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\currentcontrolset\control\device
function\monitors
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\Ports
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\device
type
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Config\0001\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device
function\device type
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\Class,
where the device bus indicates a type of bus the predetermined device uses to
couple to the computer system, the device function indicates a function the
predetermined devices provides, and the device type indicates a group
classification of the predetermined device, and the modifying means modifying at
least one of the following configuration files: win.ini, windows.inf,
windows\system, and windows\system32.

[c22] 22. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, the modifying means modifying a win.ini
file by clearing at least one or more of following lines in the win.ini file associated
with the predetermined device: load=, run=, device= lines, and at least one or
more of the following sections of the win.ini file: devices and deviceports sections.

[c23] 23. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said removing means being configured by
one or more of the following: software stored on an information storage medium
and loaded onto the computer system, software downloaded onto the computer
system via a network, and software instructions executed by a remote machine
coupled to the computer system via a network.

[c24] 24. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said modifying means being configured
by one or more of the following: software stored on an information storage
medium and loaded onto the computer system, software downloaded onto the
computer system via a network, and software instructions executed by a remote
machine coupled to the computer system via a network

[c25] 25. An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, the removing means being configured by

one or more of the following: software stored on an information storage medium and loaded onto the computer system, software downloaded onto the computer system via a network, and software instructions executed by a remote machine coupled to the computer system via a network.

[c26] 26. An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, said modifying means being configured by one or more of the following: software stored on an information storage medium and loaded onto the computer system, software downloaded onto the computer system via a network, and software instructions executed by a remote machine coupled to the computer system via a network

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